

From: Nathan Ricci
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 7:39pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The proposed final settlement simply does not do enough to remedy the monopolistic practices of Microsoft. While some of the remedies are potentially helpful, they contain loop-holes which I doubt will go unused.

In particular, this settlement does nothing to stop Microsoft from engaging in anti-competitive practices against software vendors who create alternative implementations of Microsoft API's. Although the settlement does require MS to release documentation on their API's for "Microsoft Middleware" (which, by the way, is rather narrowly defined), this documentation can only be used to interoperate with Microsoft Operating System products, not to create an alternative to an MS OS. If the settlement forced Microsoft to allow these documents to be used for alternative-implementations of these API's, it would greatly help in restoring competition to normal level.

--Nathan Ricci